



White House Office of Policy Information

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS

Washington, D.C.

Number 3

May 16, 1983

Arms Control

The fundamental U.S. goal in negotiations concerning arms reductions, and especially in our approach to the START negotiations, is to seek agreements that would enhance security and stability by reducing overall force levels while permitting modernization of U.S. Forces necessary for a credible deterrent.

- Letter to Congressman Norman Dicks, May 11, 1983.

Indexing

Indexing is a historic reform. It protects low- and middle-income families from being pushed by inflation into higher income tax rates or brackets. Indexing is the very essence of fairness and compassion. Seventy-eight percent of the benefits go to low- and middle-income earners. So we have a right to ask the Democrats ... "Why are you falling all over each other to push working families and small business people into tax brackets once reserved for millionaires?" We don't need tax increases. We need to control spending.

- Remarks at the Senate/House Dinner, May 12, 1983.

Industrial Modernization

We industrial nations must never turn our backs on our basic industries -- we will always need them. But neither must we attempt to prop-up industries employing outmoded means of production. We must encourage our firms to retool and our workers to retrain. And we should allow market incentives to encourage the flow of resources -- labor and capital -- into modern methods of production and new industries.

- Answers to questions from Bunte Magazine, May 10, 1983.

Inflation

If inflation had continued at the 12.4 percent rate of (1980), a family of four on a fixed income of \$20,000 would be \$1,700 poorer in purchasing power today. If their tax increases had stayed on the books and our tax cuts had not passed, a median-income family of four would be paying \$700 more in federal income taxes this year. Now that doesn't sound like fairness to me and it sure isn't compassion.

- Remarks at the Senate/House Dinner, May 12, 1983.

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Small Business

Much has been said and written about the high rate ... of small business failures. But not so much has been said about the other side of the coin. In 1981, a record of 580,000 new businesses were formed, and in 1982, some 560,000.

- Remarks on the observance of Small Business Week, May 11, 1983.

Social Spending

The great social spending schemes failed for the vast majority of poor Americans. They remain trapped in economic conditions no better than those of a decade-and-a-half ago. The poverty programs failed precisely because they grew without regard for the burden they and other social programs were imposing on the overall economy. As social spending multiplied, economic growth slowed, and the economy became less and less able to generate the jobs and incomes needed to lift the poor out of poverty.

- Remarks at the John Ashbrook Memorial Dinner, May 9, 1983.

Soviet "Peace" Proposals

A true Soviet agenda for peace would include withdrawal of their invading troops and KGB forces from Afghanistan, easing of pressure on Poland and its citizens, a halt of aid to international terrorists, and ending the use and supply of their nightmarish chemical and biological weapons. Actions of this type would find a ready response from my Administration, and would begin a new and better era of East-West relationships.

- Answers to Questions from Bunte Magazine, May 10, 1983.

Taxes

At least 85 percent of the 13 million small firms in America pay their taxes by personal rates, not by corporate rates. These firms will provide most of the new jobs to bring down unemployment. Any action that tampers with the third year of the tax cut or the indexing provision ... would harm small businesses and send unemployment up, not down. That's why I must and I will veto any attack on the tax incentives.

- Radio address to the nation, May 14, 1983.